



FEMA



NFIP FACTS AND FIGURES

Cover: Risk

- Floods are the #1 natural disaster in the United States
- Just an inch of water can cause extensive and costly damage to property
- Everyone is at risk – due to weather events, surface erosion and run off due to land development
- Homeowners insurance doesn't cover flood damage
- Flooding is not limited to coastal areas; in many communities, flooding is common near rivers and other inland areas as well
- Twenty to 25 percent of all flood insurance claims are filed in low- to moderate-risk areas
- New construction can increase flood risks, especially if it alters natural runoff paths or drainage patterns
- 4.7 million Americans are protected with flood insurance but millions more are unaware of their personal risk for property damage – or their options for protection

Cover: Impact

- Flood losses in the United States averaged \$867 million per year for the last decade
- The NFIP paid \$1.5 billion in flood insurance claims to policyholders during the 2004 hurricane season
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest – and is only available when a disaster has been federally declared

Cover: Protection

- Property owners, renters and businesses can purchase flood insurance if their community is among the more than 20,000 communities that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program
- In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a flood insurance policy to take effect
- The average premium for a yearly flood insurance policy is approximately \$500
- People in low- to moderate-risk communities may be eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy with flood insurance premiums as low as \$112 a year (including coverage for the property's contents)

For media interviews, or more information about FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, contact Butch Kinerney in the public affairs office at 202-646-4600. **Consumers can find more information at 1-800-427-2419 or by visiting www.FloodSmart.gov**